



Appendix B – Natural Area Preserve Act

The Natural Area Preserves Act was enacted in 1972 by the legislature to “secure for the people of present and future generations the benefit of an enduring resource of natural areas by establishing a system of natural area preserves, and to provide for the protection of these natural areas” (RCW 79.70). Preserves are identified through an organized scientific inventory process that is guided by the State of Washington Natural Heritage Plan. The purpose of NAPs is:

- To protect outstanding examples of rare or vanishing terrestrial or aquatic ecosystems, rare plant and animal species and unique geologic features;
- To serve as baselines against which the influences of human activities in similar, but differently managed ecosystems can be compared; and
- To provide areas which are important to preserving natural features of scientific or educational value.

Site-specific management plans are developed for each NAP, giving priority to protecting the natural feature that led to the designation of each site as an NAP and to maintaining natural processes.